UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/170
S/1994/659
3 June 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Items 103 and 104 (c) of the
preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES,
RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS
AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL
RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 3 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from His Excellency Dr. Mate Granić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, addressed to you (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 103 and 104 (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

Annex

Letter dated 3 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General

It is with deep concern and indignation that the Government of the Republic of Croatia has observed the continued perpetration of the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing carried out against the non-Serbian population in the regions under the control of Serbian forces in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The point in question is the forced removal and expulsion of whole families from their homes, in the course of which there are numerous recorded cases of attacks against the personal integrity of individuals, the seizure of property and means of livelihood, and widespread killings. As a result, in only the last few days, close to 600 persons have been transported, through the intercession of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), into the territory of the Republic of Croatia from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is evident that, in the execution of this policy of genocide, which is being carried out with impunity against the civilian population, the Serbian authorities have not encountered an appropriate response from the international community and that the forces of UNPROFOR may not have undertaken adequate measures for the prevention of these grossly illegal acts, the consequence of which is a significant increase in the flow of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily into the Republic of Croatia. Since the beginning of this year, through the end of May, at least 18,866 new Bosnian refugees have entered Croatia.

This tragic exodus of the non-Serbian population from Bosnia and Herzegovina most directly affects Croatia, which already cares for close to 300,000 Bosnian refugees, at direct financial costs in excess of US$ 832 million through year-end 1993, on top of some 250,000 of its own displaced persons from the occupied territories of Croatia.

Guided by moral and humanitarian obligations, Croatia has accepted a burden it can no longer bear alone, owing to the obvious financial costs beyond the capacity of its small and occupation-depressed economy. Moreover, the Government of Croatia finds it regrettable that there is still a lack of adequate level of cooperation between the representatives of the United Nations and other international peace-keeping and humanitarian organizations with the corresponding authorities of the Republic of Croatia. This has resulted in substantial difficulties in the reception, housing, care and transfer of refugees to places of temporary residence in Croatia and in other countries.

For that reason, the Republic of Croatia requests that the United Nations expeditiously undertake steps in cooperation with international organizations and individual Member States of the United Nations to accept Bosnian refugees, and especially calls upon the United Nations and the entire international

community to take effective measures to curtail the systematic policy of ethnic cleansing by the Serb forces, as well as to assist in the return of the refugees to their homes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Signed) Dr. Mate GRANIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Croatia